

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 HA-05 EB-08 BIB-01 /115 W

-----029809 061937Z /50

R 060930Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1643

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3796

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PROP, SF

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: AG SETS UP CONTROL BOARD FOR BROADCASTING

1. THE AG ON JULY 3 ESTABLISHED AN INTERIM CONTROL BOARD FOR BROADCASTING IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA. THE AG'S ASSISTANT, JOHN VIALI, TOLD US THAT THE NEW BOARD WILL EXAMINE MECHANICS FOR TAKING OVER CONTROL OF THE SABC'S REGIONAL SERVICES IN NAMIBIA INCLUDING BROADCASTS IN SIX OR SEVEN LOCAL LANGUAGES. THE GOAL, VIALI SAID, WOULD BE TO TURN THE REGIONAL SERVICE INTO A NATIONAL SERVICE. THE BOARD WOULD HAVE NO AUTHORITY OVER SABC'S "SPRINGBOK RADIO" BROADCASTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

2. VIALI SAID THAT THE INTERIM BOARD CONSISTS OF ELEVEN
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MEMBERS. THERE ARE NO POLITICAL FIGURES ON THE BOARD, HE SAID, BUT IT CONTAINS A RANGE OF COMMUNITY LEADERS INCLUDING TWO BLACKS, PLUS CATHOLIC BISHOP KOPPMAN AND LOCAL AUTHOR, OLGA LEVINSON. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD IS THE FORMER SABC REGIONAL DIRECTOR.

3. VIALI SAID THAT THE BOARD WILL ALSO LOOK INTO

ASSURING BALANCED COVERAGE OF NEWS ON THE REGIONAL BROADCAST INCLUDING ALLOCATION OF TIME FOR COMMENTARIES BY EACH POLITICAL PARTY. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE AG ON JULY 3 ALSO ISSUED A PROCLAMATION ENABLING HIM TO OVERRULE ANY DECISION MADE BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN PUBLICATIONS CONTROL BOARD REGARDING SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

4. COMMENT: THE CONTACT GROUP HAD INCLUDED IN ITS SUGGESTIONS OF POSITIVE STEPS WHICH THE SAG MIGHT TAKE, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF IMPARTIALITY IN RADIO BROADCASTING IN THE TERRITORY. THE INCLUSION OF ONLY TWO BLACKS, (WHOSE NAMES VIALI DID NOT KNOW) ON THE BOARD IS AN OBVIOUS SHORTCOMING AND IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW THE BOARD WILL OPERATE IN PRACTICE. THE TAKING OVER OF THE REGIONAL SERVICE BY AN INDEPENDENT BOARD, HOWEVER, WOULD SEEM TO REPRESENT A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION-

AND INCLUSION OF KOOPMAN AND LEVINSON SUGGESTS AN EFFORT TO MAKE THE BOARD NON-POLITICAL. THERE WOULD SEEM TO BE NO FEASIBLE WAY TO INSTITUTIONALIZE RESTRAINT OVER "SPRINGBOK RADIO'S" ENGLISH LANGUAGE BROADCASTS. THE AG'S MOVE COULD CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO THE NAMIBIAN NATIONAL FRONT'S DECISION WHETHER TO SUPPORT THE CURRENT REGISTRATION AND ULTIMATELY WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ELECTION WHETHER OR NOT SWAPO ACCEPTS THE WESTERN PROPOSAL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BROADCASTING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRETOR03796
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780790/aaaacybv.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Reference: n/a
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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SAS ID: 2103327
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: AG SETS UP CONTROL BOARD FOR BROADCASTING
TAGS: PROP, SF
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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